



February 3, 2012

To: Gerry O'Keefe, Director  
Puget Sound Partnership

From: Penny Dalton, Director  
Washington Sea Grant

RE: Comments on the 2012 Action Agenda update

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2012 Action Agenda update. Our comments focus primarily on defining the contribution of Washington Sea Grant (WSG) to the protection and restoration of Puget Sound and offer suggestions to update, clarify, and expand our inclusion in the Action Agenda.

Based at the University of Washington, WSG has worked for more than 40 years to support Puget Sound research, provide technical assistance and translate university science to serve those who manage, use and enjoy Washington's oceans and coasts. At the present time we have eight full-time staff with almost a century of combined experience working with the public in Puget Sound on practical ways to reduce toxic pollution, restore habitat and promote eco-friendly practices for businesses and residents. Much of our work is conducted in cooperation with the Partnership and is authorized jointly with Washington State University (WSU) Extension in ESSB 5372. WSG technical experts work in almost every county around the Sound and look forward to continuing to work with you in achieving protection and restoration of Puget Sound.

WSG is actively involved in several of the 2008 Action Agenda near term actions currently underway in the 2011-2013 biennium. We were pleased to find reference to some of our programs in the ongoing programs sections of the 2012 Action Agenda update and look forward to meeting with Partnership Performance Measure staff to ensure that relevant WSG activities are included in near term actions in this update.

In addition, we are providing the following more specific comments to correct our name and clarify some of our activities.

1. Page 52, “UW Sea Grant” should be omitted as this is one area of outreach where we do not have activity.
2. Page 118, Change “Washington Sea Grant Program” to “Washington Sea Grant” in both lines where it appears.
3. Page 118, under Ongoing Programs, bullet point 1, please add a sentence: “Sea Grant specialists educate the public on shellfish, stormwater, shoreline restoration, onsite sewage system maintenance, and other important issues.”
4. Page 190, under Key Ongoing Program Activities, in first sentence of first paragraph insert after local governments, “Washington Sea Grant and WSU Extension”.
5. Page 242, under Ongoing Programs, in first sentence after “Tribes,” please insert “Washington Sea Grant”. Teri King, South Sound Water Quality Specialist is fully integrated into this effort.
6. Page 245, under Key Ongoing Program Activity, should read, “Washington Sea Grant and university researchers will complete....”
7. Page 245, under C9.4, remove “on the scope of research” from the last sentence in that paragraph.
8. Page 247, under Implement Washington State’s Shellfish Initiative, please include Washington Sea Grant with other cooperating organizations and agencies when more description is added to this section.

Finally, various descriptions of the Management Conference in the main body, and particularly in Appendix C, describe Tribes, federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, and interest-based organizations as important partners and collaborators in the Management Conference. We note the absence of academia or universities in this section and encourage you to add a comparable discussion of the value of university partners describing the research, outreach activities, collaborations and capabilities this sector brings. We would be glad to assist you in revising this section.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.